



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - April 11, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather favors spring fieldwork in **California** and the **Four Corners States**. Meanwhile, rain and snow showers are returning to the **Northwest**, which remains the only large-scale area from the **Rockies westward** not facing drought concerns due to low reservoir levels, subsoil moisture shortages, and prospects for mostly below-normal spring and summer runoff.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather favors rapid winter wheat development. However, subsoil moisture shortages remain a concern on the **northern and central High Plains**, while topsoil moisture is limited across wheat areas of **Oklahoma** and **Texas**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, dry, warmer weather favors a limited return to pre-planting fieldwork, following recent, drought-easing precipitation.
- ***In the South***, spring planting operations are resuming from the **Delta westward**, although some lowland flooding persists in the **central Gulf Coast region**. Meanwhile in the **Southeast**, wet fields and lingering showers continue to delay fieldwork.

Outlook: Rain will end in the **Atlantic Coast States** on Friday as a storm system finally moves away from the **East Coast**. Drier weather and a significant warming trend will arrive in the **East** during the weekend and continue into next week. Farther west, dry, unseasonably warm weather will continue on **Plains**, while warm conditions will overspread the **Corn Belt**. Meanwhile, wet, cooler weather is forecast to arrive along the **West Coast** during the weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 16-20 calls for near- to above-normal precipitation across most of the nation. The most significant precipitation, relative to normal, is expected across the **southern Rockies**, **Mississippi Valley**, **Great Lakes region**, and much of the **Corn Belt**. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the **eastern half of the U.S.**, while below-normal temperatures are likely from the **West Coast to the Rockies**.

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